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Council offers managers job to Vale man

John Edmundson (left), Heppner Mayor Tim Van Cleave, Neva DeMayo and manager candidate David DeMayo at a reception held Saturday

The Heppner city council Monday voted to offer the city manager position to David DeMayo, currently the city manager at Vale. DeMayo and his wife Neva were in Heppner Saturday to meet the public, and talk to the city council.

The council has been advertising for a new city manager following the resignation of Jerry Breazeale who left to take the manager's job at Irrigon.

DeMayo, a retired military man who has been city manager of Vale for the past four years, could not be reached Tuesday for confirmation if he had accepted the job offer, however, it is expected he will.

In other business Monday, the council once again discussed the stray cat problem in Heppner, and decided the problem was best dealt with by a private organization or group.

"Maybe we need to consider generating some interest from concerned groups that would help control the cats," councilmember George Koffler said.

He proposed that perhaps some group like the Humane Society could come up with and implement a plant to control the cats. The council has been discussing stray cats in Heppner at its last two council meetings.

Last month Heppner resident John Edmundson wrote the council asking that something be done about the stray cat problem. This month it was Mary Jean McCabe who wrote to say, "Please, set up and enforce a cat ordinance. We have had a cat problem always." McCabe went on to say that the strays "urinate on our front porch and our glass sliding door." She said she has had to cover her flower beds with chicken wire and that she and her husband have had to "clean up hunks of fur and cat hair from our porch and deck."

City officials did not deny there was a cat problem; however they did feel the city government was not equipped to solve the problem. "The individuals need to step up and work on the problem," said acting city manager Larry Mills. "Government cannot be all things to all people." Councilmember Judy Buschke agreed. "I encourage the people who have the problem to take care of it."

In other business the council heard a report from Mills who said the water project in Heppner is being wrapped up and the contractors will be tying up some loose ends before leaving town. He said the pressure had to be adjusted in various parts of town. He said the pressure goes up and then drops way down at different times. "I think we have the pressure situation under control now," he told the council. Mills also said that the contractor would be back to add reinforcing under the Balm Fork Bridge next week. The city's mainline now hangs under the bridge. It previously was buried underground underneath Willow Creek Lake.

The council heard a report that new cooks are being hired for the senior meal at the St. Patrick's Senior Center every Wednesday. There has been criticism of the quality of the meals lately, and attendance at the luncheons has been falling. It was also reported that there are four apartment vacancies at the Senior Center.

Booster Club auction this Saturday

The Heppner Booster Club will hold its dinner, auction and raffle on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Heppner Elks Club.

The dinner will begin at 6 p.m., and includes steak, baked potato, salad, bread and dessert, prepared by Lee Ansotegui, Mike Proctor and crew.

The main auction begins at 8 p.m., with Ken Grieb presiding over the auction. A silent auction will also be held with many items up for bid.

Dinner tickets may be purchased ahead of time at Holloman's and Heppner Hardware for $10 each. Raffle tickets may be purchased at Hollomon's, Heppner Hardware and MCGG. Raffle tickets are 6 for $5, 15 for $10 and 40 for $20.

A complete list of auction and raffle items may be found on www.heppner.net.

Brazell responds to recall; election set

Sufficient signatures have been received and an election has been scheduled for November 8 for Lexington voters to decide whether to recall Lexington Council member Jean Brazell.

A ballot box will be placed at the Lexington Road Department and will be available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. that day. Ballots will be mailed by October 21, according to the Morrow County Clerk's Office.

Brazell's recall petitioner, Bob Taylor, had submitted his reason for seeking a recall for Brazell, which was published in the Oct. 5 Gazette-Times. Taylor's wife, Lexington City Council member Luella Taylor, and Lexington Mayor John Edwards were recalled in a September 27 recall election.

Those threatened with recall may either resign or submit a justification. Brazell has elected to respond with a justification as to why she should remain on the council as follows.

"Doing what is best for the town by gathering information through meetings, contacts and communicating that information to councilors and town citizens for informed decision making has been my ultimate goal since becoming involved in town government in 1999. That year I was asked to help go through five years of accounting to find out what happened to Town funds and consequently was asked to stay on as Recorder. Basically, it was found that expenses exceeded income and no cost increases had been done for several years and other government revenues had decreased. (A situation the Town may find itself in again.) I resigned that position because of a few bullies.

"The checks and balances of the accounting system have been greatly improved. It takes two council signatures to spend Town money so no one councilor can spend funds without at least one other's consent. Expenditures of funds are approved at council meetings unless an emergency arises, at which time council majority is contacted for approval.

"I urge citizens to come to council meetings and find out first hand what is happening or call town hall. Rumors and bullying can ruin a community."

Big buck could take record

Matthew Hams with huge buck

Thirteen-year-old Matthew Hams of Ione may take the record book with his very first buck. The huge buck, with a 29-3/8" spread and a Gross Green score of 181 inches.

He shot the buck in the neck from 18 yards away on October 3 in the Columbia Basin Unit.

Elementary food drive nets 1631 lbs

Heppner Elementary third grade class food drive winners with teacher Cara Osmin (back left) and volunteers Deirdre Allen and Jamie McCormack.

The Neighborhood Center will be the recipient of 1631 lbs. of food donated by the children at Heppner Elementary School. Cara Osmin's third grade class gathered the most food weighing 362 lbs. Osmin's third grade class has gathered the most food for the last two years.

The Neighborhood Center will be having an open house, Saturday, October 22, from 5-6:30 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:
MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

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Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net